

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 036564

64

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

PRS-01 /028 R

DRAFTED BY ETF:RSBARRETT:JR

APPROVED BY S/S -O: J.HOGANSON

S/S-O : J.HOGANSON

----- 086618

O P 182308Z FEB 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036564

TOSEC 455

E.O. 11652: GDS

9 "

TAGS: PFOR, ET, PINS, US

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA AS OF 1500 HOURS (EST)

FEB. 19, 1975

QUOTE:

HEAVY FIGHTING BROKE OUT IN ASMARA AT 2025 LOCAL (1225 EST) FEBRUARY 18. MUCH OF IT WAS CONCENTRATED AT AN ETHIOPIAN MILITARY INSTALLATION IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO OUR CONSULATE GENERAL, WHICH WAS ALSO RECEIVING ROUNDS. THE AMERICAN-RUN ELECTRICITY GENERATOR IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN WAS ALSO HIT BUT IS STILL OPERATING. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF ANY AMERICAN CASUALTIES.

THE WASHINGTON POST ON FEBRUARY 18 CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY ITS ADDIS ABABA-BASED CORRESPONDENT DAVID OTTAWAY ABOUT THE RECENT ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 036564

THE AP CORRESPONDENT IN ADDIS, WHO FIRST BROKE

THE STORY (SITREP 31), HAS BEEN GIVEN A COMPLETE  
BREAKDOWN OF THE REQUEST BY ETHIOPIAN MILITARY SOURCES.  
WE HAVE INFORMED THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY HERE, WHEN  
IT FOLLOWED UP ON FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE'S COMPLAINT  
ABOUT A VOA BROADCAST ON THIS SUBJECT (SITREP 32), THAT

WE DEPLORE THESE LEAKS WHICH ARE OCCURRING IN ETHIOPIA.

THERE WERE TWO MORE PRO-PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
(PMG) DEMONSTRATIONS IN ADDIS ON FEBRUARY 18, ONE  
BY WAR VETERANS AND ANOTHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE  
OAU, BOTH OF THEM PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIAN  
UNITY, I.E., RETENTION OF ERITREA. MAJOR MENGISTU  
HAILE MARIAM, VICE CHAIRMAN AND REPUTED DE FACTO  
LEADER OF THE RULING PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE  
COUNCIL (PMAC) SPOKE TO THE WAR VETERANS ON THE PMG'S  
INTENTIONS TO HOLD ONTO THE DISSIDENT PROVINCE.

ACCORDING TO THE WIRE SERVICES, PRIME MINISTER  
TEFERI BANTE HAS BEEN RECEIVING NATIONAL DELEGATIONS  
TO THE OAU WITH THE MESSAGE "ETHIOPIA IS NOT FOR  
SALE AND NATIONAL UNITY CANNOT BE BARGAINED WITH,"  
BUT THE SUBJECT OF ERITREA HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN  
OFFICIALLY RAISED AT THE OAU MEETING OF FOREIGN  
MINISTERS. IN BEIRUT A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INSURGENT  
ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT (ELF) TOLD A PRESS  
CONFERENCE THAT THE ELF HAD TOTALLY REJECTED THE  
SUDANESE PEACE EFFORTS.

ON FEBRUARY 17 THE PMG ANNOUNCED THE CONFISCATION  
OF THE PROPERTY OF SEVEN FORMER ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADORS  
INCLUDING FORMER MINISTER ZEWDE GEBRE SELASSIE, FOR  
HAVING IGNORED ORDERS TO RETURN TO ETHIOPIA. ZEWDE  
IS STILL IN NEW YORK, HAVING COME TO THE US FOR THE  
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING LAST YEAR AND HAVING  
SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN REPLACED BY KIFLE WODAJO, THEN  
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE MAW

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, TOSEC 455, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchantr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE036564  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RSBARRETT:JR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750058-0270  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750234/aaaabely.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchantr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchantr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA AS OF 1500 HOURS (EST) FEB. 19, 1975  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, ET, US  
**To:** PARIS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006